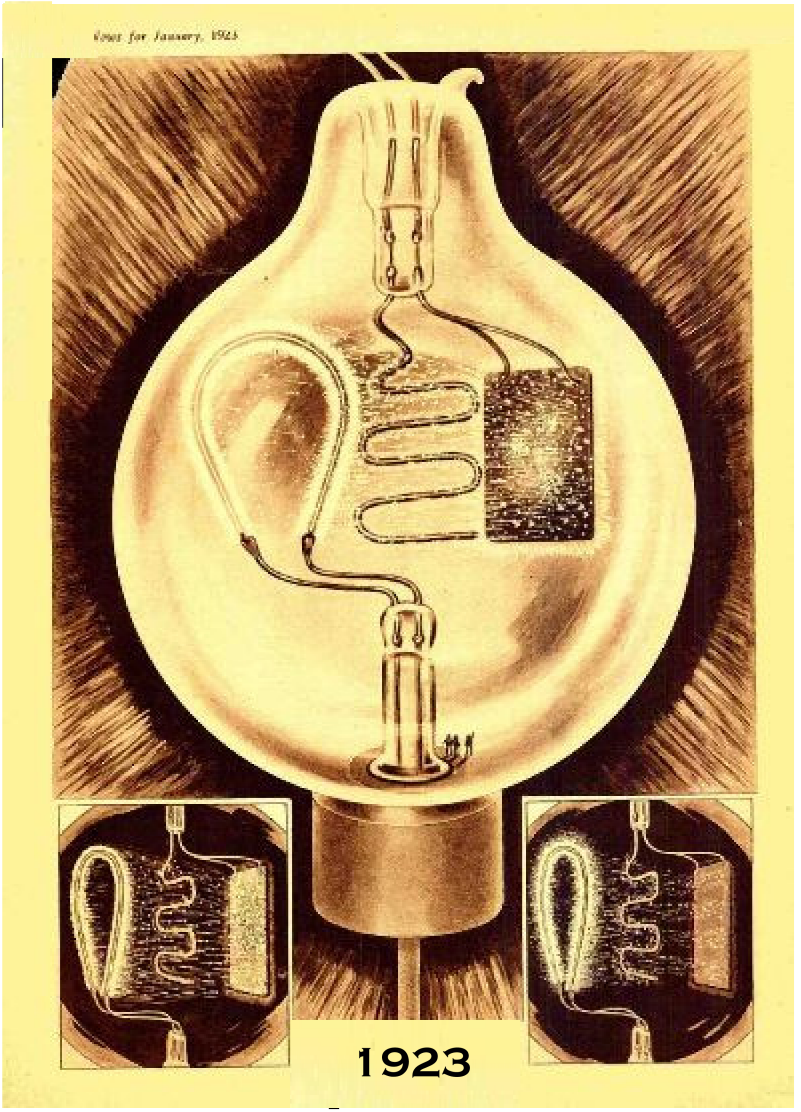
The Call Letter

February, 2023
Volume 49 #2



The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009) patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489) edtomp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary Scott Thomas wst123@comcast.net
Board member Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639) soundmikey14@gmail.com

Key Volunteers

Call Letter Editor Dick Karman Relivingradio@karmans.net
Archivist Dan Howard nvrsdan@gmail.com
Photographer Sonny Clutter Radiolaguy@outlook.com

February Table of Contents

Vice Presidents Note 1
Meeting Minutes.....2
President's notes.....4
2022 Highlights 5
January Meeting photos.....6
In Memory of Joe Beseda.....7
Tube of the Month 8
Pages from the past – service notes.....10
A Call Letter interview.....11
Swap Shop listing.....12

Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

Vice President Notes

From Franklin Ouchida

Featured radios are those brands, types, or models that conform to an item in their name: for instance a radio brand starting with an "R" would fit the bill for the R feature, just like a "01A" tube would fit the requirement for an "A" or a "1" feature.

The featured radios by month:

- February "2"
- March "3"
- April -- none swap meet
- May "4"
- June"5"
- July none picnics
- August "6"
- September -- none swap meet
- October "7"
- November "1923 radios "
- December -- none Christmas party

Meeting Minutes

From Recording Secretary Scott Thomas

The 1/14/23 meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM
Pledge of Allegiance was recited
50/50 Drawing Resumed manned by Mell Sutton
4 New Members

Health & Welfare:

Ray Holland needs a ride to the club meetings

Treasurer Report:

Handout presented to all present club members

Ed explained the club revenue and the club expenses
Auctions are currently the main revenue source for the club
Newsletter is the largest expense with approximately 60% of the members choosing to receive print copies. Blake stated that was on par with similar clubs with which he is familiar. Brian Toon stated the costs to produce the newsletter are fairly stable, but the Postage is the biggest expense.
The cost of the use of the Grange Hall has doubled this year due to extensive remodeling to shore up the building.

Action Items:

Contact Judy for Hall Availability during the remodel work.
Liability Insurance: Are Board Members Covered?
Changes of the Bylaws regarding the published Member Directory clause and clarify the "Pro-rated" Dues.

Leads and Needs:

Does anyone need an Audio version of the Newsletter?
Swenson Radio Sale-Wishes to sell collection at one transaction-contact: dsswenson@comcast.net

Old Business: Thanks to volunteers for the Christmas Party!

New Business: 1/21/23 AUCTION Starts at 9 AM, Preview at 8:00 AM

Call letter Birthday announcement, members must opt out if they don't want to be listed.

Board Meeting:

1/17/23 at 7:00 PM Tek Museum Beaverton

Radio Contest: should NWVRS have a contest like the PSARA clubs? We have done them in the past. What are the judging criteria? Members interested in this are encouraged to attend the Board Meeting Tuesday.

Tesla Live Radio Show:

NWVRS will pay admission for members to attend, manning the NWVRS table is required, if the club pays admission. February radio theater events are full, but available for March 10th

April Swap Meet:

Christian asked if Flyers could be printed and distributed at the February Meeting for distribution to local Antique Stores to promote interest. Pat, stated OTAPS will be included, as in the past shows.

Monthly Feature:

One Tube Radios, George Kirkwood showed a one tube radio that was homemade and given to him. Brian Toon Showed his Heathkit GC1 Mohican AC/DC 10 Transistor Radio. Sonny Clutter brought two one tube radios, one was a railroad model, the other an Airphone homebuilt unit. (see photos in Call Letter)

Tube of the Month:

UV199, presentation was given by Mike McCrow. Details can be found in the January Call Letter

Meeting was Adjourned

Training Session:
Mike and Blake gave a training session on test equipment part 2.

President's Message

By Pat Kagi, President

I want to acknowledge and thank Dick Karman for all of the work and dedication he has contributed to the society in producing such a high quality publication of the Call Letter and for the extended electronic edition with the additional content and pictures. The board has unanimously voted to award Dick an Honorary Membership. We are grateful.

I think that the January 21st auction was a big success. Special thanks to some of those who made it possible: Jeff Hutchinson, Esteban Mendoza, Mike Moran, Franklin Ouchida, Lee Stanford, Bill Weigel. Forgive me if I missed anyone.

Also does anyone have the emails of the visitors?

On a more practical topic: Don't forget to pay for your membership as dues are due January of each year. It is $25.00 for a regular membership and $20.00 if you want the electronic version of the Call Letter. To make it easy, you can pay via PayPal, using the family and friends option.

NOTE: Help make The 50th Anniversary of NWVRS special! We need your opinion on this momentous anniversary. Please join the 50th anniversary committee.

Pay your membership dues at meetings, or mail them to the post office box.

Accomplishment Highlights for 2022:

- Call Letter promotional (one time) edition to recruit former Tube Collectors Association members
- Arranged dues and donation payments through PayPal
- Moved larger auctions to a non-meeting dates
- Combined PSARA/NWVRS swap meet in Chehalis at Fletcher Anderson's
- Elected new NWVRS secretary
- Create NWVRS guidelines to handle estates and auctions
- Monthly hybrid meetings (in person and on Zoom)
- Maintain Monthly Features at meetings (and in the Call Letter)

  Tube of the month
  Technical Talks and articles
  Radio repair training

- Produced, edited, printed, collated, labeled and mailed 12 monthly issues of the Call Letter solely by NWVRS volunteers
- Virus protection on computers used in NWVRS day to day operations
- Backup all NWVRS computers to the cloud
- Email distribution of the Call Letter with an (size) unlimited "PLUS" version
- On-line presence to include Club Website, Facebook / YouTube, Google email groups and now Twitter
- Maintaining a financially responsible non-profit organization with yearly audits
- On-line and live radio auctions (Lynn Charneski, Bernard Dwigans, Mike Gadbois, Roy Gabriel, Hannah Hood, Steve Johnson, Sandra Ragan and Alan Shadduck sales)
- Electronics recycling through the annual Trash / Bash
- Repaired 6 items for Columbia Springs (3 radios, 2 phonographs, 1 wooden stand)

Memories of the January Meeting

Displayed by Brian Toon

Displayed by George Kirkwood

Displayed by Sonny Clutter

Photos and photo prep by Sonny Clutter

In Memory

Joe Beseda 1932 – 2022

By Dan Howard

Joseph "Joe" Patrick Beseda passed away February 24, 2022 at age 89.

Joe was a lifelong Portland resident. After attending Portsmouth Grade School in north Portland, Joe graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in 1950. In 1952 Joe joined the US Army and served 24 months during the Korean War years. He was stationed in Sacramento, achieving the rank of corporal in the Signal Corps.

Joe had his ups and downs. He enjoyed a 40-year career installing, maintaining, and repairing elevators in Portland.

Joe joined the NWVRS in February, 1988 – the same month as Gordon Phillips and Doug Davee among others. His radio collection was quite varied including early battery sets and speakers, classic ham and military gear, "boat anchors," and AC table radios. The sets he displayed at our meetings reflected on his enjoyment of repairing radios and his restoration expertise.

Joe lived in Southeast Portland, just over a mile from Bob Lee's R5-D3 location on 82nd. I'm told that Joe visited Bob just about every morning.

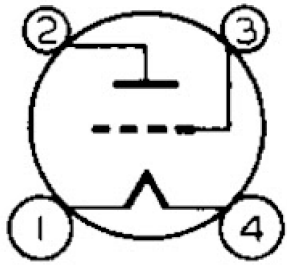
I learned that Joe was a member of the Antique Wireless Association when my stories began appearing in the annual AWA Review books. Joe always made it a point to quietly approach me, pen in hand, and ask me to autograph his copy. [Thank you, my friend –that meant so much to me].

In Spring of 2022 Joe was laid to rest beside his beloved wife Caroline at Willamette National Cemetery near the Oregon Korean Veteran's Memorial.

Sources: Mt Scott Funeral Home (www.mtsfh.com)

Tube of the Month – 2A3

From Mike McCrow



The 2A3 directly heated triode was first introduced January 10th 1933. The initial design was made without support rods. By 1934 support rods were added. In 1935 Sylvania introduced their 2A3. It was the single-plate design similar to the early RCA. In 1936 RCA introduced the dual plate. Two smaller triodes wired in parallel with a "W" style filament. This design had slightly more distortion but more internal capacitance.

The 2A3 is still being manufactured today. It is very popular for its use in Hi-Fi amplifiers designed in either single ended or push pull. It can give 3.5 watts of output power in single end, or as much as 15 watts in a pair of class AB push pull. It has the same heater voltage as the 45 at 2.5 volts but needs almost double the current. It has a low plate impedance of 800 ohms which makes it usable in single ended output transformers of 2.5K ohms and up. Some audiophiles claim it is like two 45's in one. The single plate design also known as the mono plate, is sought after due to its clearer sound.

After just turning 90 the 2A3 is still used in new designs of Hi-Fi tube amplifiers. It is made by several tube companies all over the world. At this rate it might make it another 90 years.

1956 Philips refrigerator/radio

About a year ago, a contributor placed this picture on the internet with very little to substantiate it. It is a 1956 refrigerator made by Philips (Netherlands) and it is speculated that the grill in the front is the radio speaker, and the grill on the side of the door is for circulation because it was a tube (probably AA5) radio. Many reminiscence are related on various internet site, but I can't find any that are still working or where this is on display. [editor]

April Radio/Phonograph Swap Meet

NWVRS & OTAPS

Plan now for April 8, 2023 in Aurora, Oregon

Contact Scott Thomas email wst123@comcast.net

Radio Servicemen's notes

Contributed by Lud Sibley
From RCA Radio Service News 1937

INCREASING SELECTIVITY OF TRF SETS

When an old set becomes less selective, especially an old TRF set, the best solution is of course to sell a new radio, but when that cannot be done and the customer wants to get certain stations, add a little feedback to the second RF stage by twisting a turn of insulated wire between the second- and third-stage grids and adjust for best results. A small trimmer condenser on the first stage and attached to the panel can be used to best advantage in this case. (July 1937)

REPAIRING SHIELD

I had a set in which the grid lead coming out of the IF shield had been pulled so hard that it had ripped the shield about an inch and a half. The lead was replaced and the set was otherwise OK after realignment, but that shield with the cut down the side looked terrible. Tin foil was much too bright. However, I found a deluxe wrapping paper in a so-called gold and silver finish. The latter is actually a dull aluminum and matched perfectly when affixed with waterproof cement. (July 1937)

MAJESTIC 90 and 90B

When you have to replace the line-ballast resistor in an old Majestic 90, 90B, etc., try rewinding the old form with wire from an old 20-ohm rheostat from a battery set. The wire is just the right size and length. It is also heavier wire than the original and will stand up better. (July 1937)

SAFETY-FIRST TONGS

While servicing a set "hot" I have found a pair of photo-print tongs, made of bamboo and available in any photo-supply store, of value since loose connections can be spotted by taking hold of individual wires with the tongs and shaking them. As the tongs are non-metallic, danger of shorts or a bad shock are eliminated. Also, parts may be held in place for soldering without danger of burned fingers. (Nov. 1937)

The NWVRS sends February Birthday Wishes to:

Roy Gabriel
Richard Hess
Cliff Tuttle
Jon Woolf

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board know at patkagi@yahoo.com

An Interview with Jeff Hutchinson

Call Letter: Jeff. Thanks for volunteering to clean up the NWVRS lending library. It's needed doing for some time.

Jeff Hutchinson: I am happy to do it. And I thank Dan Howard for helping me get started.

C.L. What is your eventual goal?

J.H. The goal is to make access as easy as possible. Publications have been categorized into subject matter such as radio identification and price guides, radio history, radio theory, radio repair and restoration, reference guides, transistor radios & TV, etc.

Dan & I decided that material readily known to be available on the internet such as schematics, tube/transistor substitution books and early radio magazines would be weeded out to allow room for desirable incoming books.

Also part of the NWVRS library is a collection of digital media like CD's and DVD's. Future projects include updating the list of available material in a "subject category" format instead of alphabetical order or by author. I feel this will be the easiest way to locate a book. Members will then be able to locate a publication of interest from the provided list on the club website and then "check-out" your book during the next club meeting in Oregon City

C.L. That sounds great. Thanks for all of your work.
I understand that some books should be available, but we don't have them. Which ones are they, so far?

J.H.: Judging from the interests of the members, I think we should have a copy of ***Classic Plastic Radios of the 1930's and 1940's*** by John Sideli. It was published in 1990 and is nicely done. We're also missing one of the Alan Douglas books: ***Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's Vol. 2*** by Alan Douglas. So far, the last one I'm hoping to find is ***Radio: A Blast from the Past*** published in 1987, authors: H.G. Wolff & I. Jacobson.

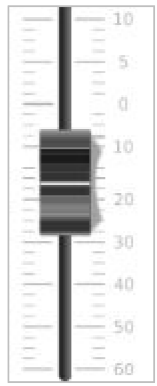
C.L. It sounds like that is a place to start. How would a member donate one of these titles to the club?

J.H. First, it is probably wise to email me and see that the need still exists. They can contact me at bouncedvr@comcast.net. You can also bring it to one of the meetings. If I am not there, Pat or Mike will accept the donation and make sure we get it in the library.
Also, if there is a book that you feel would benefit the membership, let us know – it would of course, be nice if you wanted to donate a copy of the book to the library.

C.L. Thanks again for volunteering your time and working on a project that benefits all of us.

A reading of the Call Letter

If you are sight impaired, or have difficulty reading the Call Letter contact the Editor or a Board member and we will email a link to the recorded reading of the most recent Call Letter (with PLUS pages) to you. The audio copy will not be recorded unless it is requested in the first few weeks of each month.



Swap Shop

FOR SALE:

I have 5 Zenith Transoceanic radios. 4 are 500 series and 1 is a 600 series. They have all been cleaned and tubes checked. All are working but have not been recapped. I would like to get $135 each for them. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks. 541-231-0961 James R. Uerlings, - Albany, Or 97322

Wanted

Radios made in Oregon. I'm seeking radios, parts and information on brands such as Long Bros, Northwestern Radio Manufacturing (Norco), Hallock & Watson (Halowat), and Heacock. Dick Howard dhoward27@comcast.net

Wanted

Radio Antenna Parts. I am looking for antenna insulators, lightning arresters, vintage antenna switches, and antenna kits. Dan Howard nvrsDan@gmail.com

For Sale

National HRO 7 complete with speaker, power supply and s/n matched coils, many HRO parts, coils for various HRO models, wooden coil boxes, dial scales for HRO 50 & 60, manuals, etc. Dan Howard nvrsDan@gmail.com

Wanted

2 brown knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio"

A Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
A Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/or Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.
Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
971-407-8108

Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com

NW Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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